

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction requirement in view of the remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement with regard to claims 1-20. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

GROUP	CLAIMS	CLASSIFICATION
I	1-13	Class 427, Subclass 487
II	14-20	Class 428, Subclass 343

Applicants have elected claims 14-20 for initial examination. It is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement is improper in view of the fact that no serious burden is presented to the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application.

As set forth in Section 803 of the MPEP, the Examiner must examine an application on the merits if the examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Two criteria are identified for a proper requirement for restriction:

1. The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and
2. There must be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction is not required.

Applicants respectfully submit that a serious burden has not been placed on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application. A review of the subject matter set forth in claims 14-20 would include a review of class 427, subclass 487 and class 428 subclass 343.

Thus, a different field of search does not exist with regard to the claims of the present application.

The Examiner indicates that the product may be made by another and materially different process. It is respectfully submitted that this position is not tenable. More specifically, if the preformed adhesive support has already a polymerized mass within it, the mass must have been filled into the support. Thus, the step of filling the mass into the adhesive support cannot be eliminated. The presumably different processes are in fact not materially different regardless of whether the filling of the mass into the adhesive support would be defined as part of the process or not.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, claims 14-20 are elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. If the Examiner does persist in his restriction requirement, the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims at a later date, if desired, is reserved.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has not approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicants. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings comply with the requirements of the USPTO. If the Examiner has any objections to the Formal Drawings he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned as soon as possible so that appropriate action may be taken. No further action is believed to be necessary at this time unless the undersigned receives a notice from the Examiner.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone

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number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

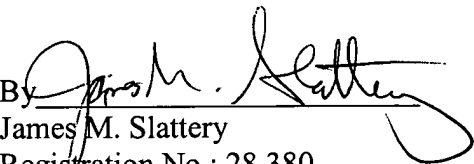
Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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